

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicants : Ross et al.
Serial No. : 10/689,568
Filed : October 20, 2003
Title : Sterilizable Ophthalmoscopy Lens System
Docket : 27109-32
Examiner : Shih
Art Unit : 3735
Conf. No. : 8437

EFS Web Electronic Submission
July 11, 2006

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action of June 6, 2006.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks below, which include, in order of appearance, beginning on separate sheets:

- Amendments to the Claims; and
- Remarks.

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An ophthalmoscopy lens system, comprising:

~~(a)~~ a contact lens element having a posterior lens surface with a concave shape substantially corresponding to the shape of an average cornea, and an anterior surface;

~~(b)~~ an image forming lens element having anterior and posterior surfaces, wherein said ~~anterior or posterior~~ surface of said image forming lens element has a shape corresponding to the shape of the anterior surface of said contact lens element; and

~~(c)~~ a retaining ring configured to maintain said contact lens element and said image forming lens element in mating relationship with one another, wherein said contact lens element and said image forming lens element are maintained in mating relationship with one another without an air space therebetween.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The ophthalmoscopy lens system of claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein said contact lens element and said image forming lens element are maintained in mating relationship with one another with a fluid layer located therebetween.

19. (currently amended) The ophthalmoscopy lens system of claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein said retaining ring comprises an annular ring configured such that said retaining ring extends around the outer circumference of said image forming lens element, and further wherein said retaining ring is configured to engage said contact lens element so as to maintain the contact lens element and the image forming lens element in said mating relationship.

20. (currently amended) The ophthalmoscopy lens system of claim 19, wherein said retaining ring includes a groove extending about the interior circumference of said retaining ring, and further wherein said contact lens element includes a plurality of mounting tabs configured to be positioned within said groove for maintaining the contact lens element and the image forming lens element in said mating relationship.

21. (currently amended) The ophthalmoscopy lens system of claim 16, wherein said anterior surface of said contact lens element is concave, and said image forming lens element is biconvex.

22. (new) A lens comprising:

a contact lens element having a concave posterior lens surface and an anterior lens surface, wherein said concave posterior lens surface of said contact lens element has a shape substantially corresponding to the shape of an average cornea; and

an image forming lens element having anterior and posterior surfaces, wherein said posterior surface of said image forming lens element has a shape corresponding to the shape of the anterior surface of said contact lens element such that said contact lens element and said image forming lens element are maintained in mating relationship with one another without an air space therebetween.

23. (new) The lens of claim 22, wherein said contact lens element and said image forming lens element are maintained in mating relationship with one another with a fluid layer located therebetween.

Remarks

Claims 16 and 18-23 are pending in the present application. By the present amendment, claims 1-15 and 17 have been canceled, claims 16 and 18-21 have been amended, and new claims 22-23 have been introduced.

Applicant acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 17-20. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of dependent claim 17. Claim 16 has also been amended to be consistent with the following text on page 25, lines 2-3, of the original specification:

Concave anterior surface 142 has a shape corresponding to the posterior surface of lens 160 (as seen in Fig. 10).

Claims 18-21 depend directly from amended claim 16. New claims 22 and 23 have been presented to also incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 17. Applicant reserves the right to pursue allowance of the subject matter of claims 1-15 in a continuing application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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